

South Dakota National Guard

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NEWS RELEASE:

211th Engineer Company provides support in Dakota Dunes

Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. – The 211th Engineer Company, headquartered out of Madison, are in Dakota Dunes providing various support missions for the Southeast South Dakota Flood Incident, June 13, 2011 as part of Task Force 153. The unit worked on sandbag production for the first nine days of its activation and has recently been re-tasked to the quick reaction force (QRF) and levee patrol missions.

Record releases of water from the Oahe and Gavins Point Dams have increased a historic flow and water levels along the Missouri River. With the rise of the Missouri River, residents of several towns along its banks have been in emergency flood mode for some time and several neighborhoods have been evacuated due to safety concerns.

Task Force 153 currently has more than 670 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen performing sandbagging operations, levee patrols, security, traffic control and is planning for quick reaction along the levees in the Yankton and Dakota Dunes areas. The 211th currently has more than 60 Soldiers performing state active duty in support of the flood support missions along the Missouri River. The 211th has been performing such missions since May 31, 2011.

Of note, the 211th recently returned from an overseas deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in September of 2010. Their missions consisted of route clearance, counter IED operations, security missions and dismounted operations along movement and supply routes in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the 211th performed 428 combat missions, cleared more than 18,600 miles of road from IEDs and set many performance records while on active duty. “Our company has the highest IED find rate in Operation Enduring Freedom history,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plooster, of Tyler, Minn.

The 211th has stepped up again, as have many Soldiers and Airmen in the SDNG, to support this state and nation by performing flood support operations during this historic Missouri River flooding event.

“I think it’s great to be able to working jointly with the 114th FW from the Air National Guard,” said Capt. Derris Buus, of Rapid City and 211th Engineer Company Commander. “It has been a very positive experience to help save homes and work side-by-side citizens of South Dakota to mitigate the risk and negative effects caused by the flood waters along the Missouri River.”

In addition to providing flood support efforts, Buus has been involved in an officer exchange program between the U.S. and Germany, whereby each country exchanges officers in the same career field for two weeks at a time.

Capt. Michael Marquardt, a member of the German Army Reserve from Eastern Germany, is working side-by-side with Buus and comparing methods and procedures during his visit to South Dakota on this soldier exchange program.

"I want to see how your troops react to incidents such as the flooding in Dakota Dunes," said Marquardt.

In fact, Marquardt is a bridge engineer in Germany, and his unit is about to convert to combat engineers. He is observing how the 211th performs their missions to take back information about tactics, techniques and procedures that may help German engineers in the future.

“He got an opportunity to witness the magnitude of our efforts over the past two weeks,” said Buus. “Working jointly with Capt. Marquardt has been a great experience and I am looking forward to going to Germany this upcoming August and September.”

-30-



110613-F-UL435-035: DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Staff Sgt. Darren Rus (left), Sioux Falls, goes over some information on an incident map with Staff Sgt. Daniel Schumacher, Brookings. Both Soldiers belong to the 211th Engineer Company, Madison, while on quick reaction force duty June 13, 2011. The 211th currently has more than 60 Soldiers that are performing state active duty in support of the flood support missions along the Missouri River in Southeast South Dakota. Nearly 1,000

Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard continue to perform various flood support duties throughout the state. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)



110613-F-UL435-041: DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plooster, of Tyler, Minn., is a member of the 211th Engineer Company. The 211th is headquartered in Madison, and Plooster relays important information to some of his fellow Soldiers via radio while on quick reaction force duty, June 13, 2011. The 211th currently has more than 60 Soldiers that are performing state active duty in support of the flood support missions along the Missouri River in Southeast South

Dakota. Nearly 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard continue to perform various flood support duties throughout the state. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)



110613-F-UL435-042: DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Spc. Jasen Haller, Sioux Falls, and Spc. Sam West, Watertown, both members of the 211th Engineer Company, headquartered out of Madison, perform levee patrol duty in the "Country Club" area of Dakota Dunes along the Missouri River, June 13, 2011. The 211th currently has more than 60 Soldiers that are performing state active duty in support of the flood support missions along the Missouri River in Southeast South Dakota. Nearly 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen

from the South Dakota National Guard continue to perform various flood support duties throughout the state.

"I am really amazed with all of the people involved in the preparation of the flood," said Haller. "It's a lot of hard work, but in the end, it's worth every minute". (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)



110613-F-UL435-086: DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. - Capt. Michael Marquardt, a member of the German Army Reserve from Eastern Germany, compares methods and procedures with Capt. Derris Buus, Rapid City, 211th Engineer Company commander, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plooster, Tyler, Minn., during his visit to the United States on the Soldier exchange program, Monday, June 13, 2011.

"I want to see how your troops react to incidents such as the flooding in Dakota Dunes," said Marquardt.

The 211th currently has more than 60 Soldiers that are performing state active duty in support of the flood support missions along the Missouri River in Southeast South Dakota. Nearly 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard continue to perform various flood support duties throughout the state. (SDNG photo by Tech. Sgt. Quinton Young)

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